

The Brethren Evangelist.

PUBLISHED AT
THE BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE.

"Let Us go on Unto Perfection."

TERMS, \$1.50
PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

VOLUME VII.

ASHLAND, OHIO, JANUARY 14, 1885.

NUMBER 2.

An Open Letter to E. L. Yoder and A. L. Garber: the Brethren's New Editorial Party.

MORRILL, KANS., Dec. 30, 1884.

—Your letter of Dec. 25th, 1884, announcing the purchase on your part of brother H. R. Holsinger's interest in the BRETHREN'S EVANGELIST, is at hand, and contents carefully read. I have faith in your ability and wisdom to successfully conduct that paper, and sincerely hope that the good resolutions you express in your letters will be faithfully carried out. In fact I believe they will be; but should you fail in this, then "woe betide thee". The little influence that I may be able to command, you shall certainly have; and my prayer is that you may have all the influence our united brotherhood is able to command; and that the men of nerve, honor and ability may feel a special interest in your success. Holsinger has been grandly faithful, and whilst we rejoice that his mantle has fallen upon men who we believe will prove worthy as his successors, we nevertheless feel loath to part with him. In point of honor and ability we regard him as at least the peer of any editor in the history of the Brethren church since 1708. We did exceedingly love the *Christian Family Companion*, published by him. Even in those days of fog and mist, we admired his candor and moral courage; and even now vividly remember how loathsome we felt during the year of his seclusion as commission merchant in Chicago. We remember of even then corresponding with him and urging him to the publication of a free rostrum. We also remember how our heart thrilled with joy when in one of his letters to us he stated that he was contemplating the matter. And what new hope and courage inspired our soul, when just six years ago about now, with the assistance of that noble man of God, Jos. W. Beer, he sent forth the first number of the *Progressive Christian*. Though in great weakness we then determined to stand by the work so nobly commenced. We believed in the principles the *Progressive Christian* professed, and so courageously defended. Our cause sometimes looked very gloomy. Like in the days of our Savior, opposition came not from the ranks of the ordinary, but from men in power, wielding almost imperial sway. The missiles of slander and misrepresentation were hurled with merciless fury upon the heads of the infantile and much needed Reformation. The spirit of persecution clearly showed his deformity from behind the mask. His great, even his greatest and only argument (?) was hurled with crushing effect at the struggling few who had taken for their watchword the patriotic sentence which fell from the lips of one of America's noblest sons, in the time of infantile struggle against the assumed and intolerant arguments (?) of some political power: "Give me liberty or give me death!" Like the struggle of America's infantile Republic, our struggles have been

crowned with success—proven a success, Brethren, because we unselfishly stuck to our principles. Holsinger was, all through the storm, acknowledged as the "ablest Dunkard editor"; and if he would only have danced to the piping of annual meeting power, would, undoubtedly, have made much more money than he did. But like Henry Clay and others, preferred to be right rather than president; and in our weakness God's strength has been manifested. The hilarity of our opposers, at Arnold's Grove, in glorying over the ridicule accomplished has turned to naught; in every joint they are trembling in the direness of fearful apprehension; victory has perched upon our banner; in fact the enemy is ours. Their mighty men are surrendering. Some few are still lingering but they are bound to succumb.

Now, dear editors, you might make more money by publishing a paper besmeared with the soft soap of policy, and lacking in the staunchness of principle; but we hope better things of you. In fact our faith in your fidelity to the truth, makes us believe firmly that you will prove worthy of your illustrious predecessor. Such worthiness on your part will cause the veterans of the last six years to stand by you. I am satisfied that even H. R. H. will stand by you; the Brethren from everywhere will support you: but more than all God will be with you. The mission of our paper has been of God and by his sustaining grace we have been brought thus far; and more radiant with hope, more bright with divine lustre, beams upon us New Year's day, 1885, than did the same day, 1879.

Men are learning the correctness of our position, and we are gaining in respect with intelligent and right thinking and unprejudiced men everywhere. But wickedness and intrigue still lingers and must be rebuked. Rebuked in such a plain way that it may be known who we mean.

O, brethren, avoid belittling insinuations! When brother Bauman sins, tell him plainly with a desire that he might reform and do so no more. Don't "whip him around the stump." "Let him strike but make him hear."

May your course be straightforward and the benediction of your letter will be realized by us all. Yours, with fraternal regard.

W. J. H. BAUMAN.

Brooklyn, Iowa.

JAN. 6, 1885.—Brother Andrew Mohler, of Keokuk county, Iowa, commenced a series of meetings on the 26th of December, 1884, and closed on the 5th of Jan., 1885; preaching in all twelve sermons. He preached the Gospel so forcibly that ten precious souls were persuaded to forsake sin and serve the Lord. We were all benefited by the meeting.

Bro. Mohler will commence another protracted meeting for us on the fourth Saturday of January, 1885.

H. H. CONNELL.

San Francisco, Cal.

DEC. 20, 1884.—I am now writing in the parlor of Bro. G. W. A. Brockwell, 38 Mary street, San Francisco. I came here on Saturday, the 13th inst., in company with Bro. John Milton and my son, Orlando. The latter came to seek employment as a printer, and the former returned from a month's sojourn in the great San Joaquin Valley, during which time he had his home at Elder J. P. Wolfe's; and I came to attend to my calling in church work.

We had a pleasant trip down the valley to Oakland.

On Sunday, at 10:30 a. m., we were found out on the street where Bro. Brockwell is accustomed to preach at that hour. When we came to the place there were but few present, but by the time we had sung a few hymns there was a good congregation. Bro. Brockwell preached from the 58th chapter of Isaiah. I can scarcely tell what kind of a sermon he preached, but I think it was good. I generally listen to the preacher; but there is about as much difference between street preaching and street listening and the same kind of work in-doors as there is between a street and a meeting-house. First a lady asked me some questions with reference to baptism, and then a gentleman made inquiry concerning the church; and after answering their questions I had but little time to listen. However, I was glad to be present to learn something of the nature of street preaching. I think Bro. Brockwell is the right man in the right place.

After services we started to North Beach where baptism was to be administered. On our way we came to another congregation and found Bro. Richard Plummer offering up the closing prayer of his services. He and a few others of our company had passed by our meeting and held their own. We passed on to the beach, sang a few hymns, and then I read a few scriptures referring to baptism and spoke a little on the subject. Bro. Brockwell then baptized two young brethren, after which we returned to his home.

At 3 o'clock p. m. I went with Bro. Milton and Bro. Finch (the latter a Christian—Campbellite) to the Y. M. C. A. hall to hear Dr. Stratton preach. His theme was, "The Excellency of the Knowledge of Christ." He did well, but I thought his acquaintance with science was better than with Christianity. However, he held and carried his audience, and therefore it would be hazardous to criticize his sermon.

In the evening we held a communion meeting at Bro. Brockwell's home. This was, indeed, a refreshing season. They commune once a month. Sister Brockwell was the only sister present. Herein is a problem for Elder Landon West and his colleagues.

On Monday evening, Dec. 15th, 1884, we met again at the same place, and after devotional exercises, the reading of the 12th chapter of 1st Corinthians, and

due deliberations, the members were organized into a local church, to be known as the First Brethren Church of San Francisco, Cal. There are twelve members in the city, and all are earnest, active workers. Bro. John Milton and Bro. Richard Plummer were elected to the ministry, and Bro. Samuel Stewart to the deaconate. These are all young men of great promise, and I pray that the Lord may keep them humble and make them useful in their callings. Bro. John Congill was elected Treasurer, and Bro. Brockwell, Clerk.

Another day passed and on Tuesday evening we assembled again at the same place. This meeting was for the purpose of anointing the sick, which was attended to with due solemnity. After the service of anointing was concluded, Bro. Milton introduced for discussion the subject of fasting, in which all present took a part, and several important uses and designs of the ordinance, or duty, or privilege of fasting were brought forward.

Thus in a few days this church was organized, all the ordinances observed, and a number of good works were attended to, including the lodging of strangers. I felt that it was good to be here. It reminded me of the primitive days of Christianity. The Lord will certainly bless such zeal; and if this noble little band of brethren and sisters is spared, it will not be long till we shall have a flourishing church in San Francisco.

LATER.—On Wednesday evening I returned home and found my wife in her usual state of health. My visit to the city afforded me much pleasure, and I am thankful to all the members and friends for their kindness, and especially to Brother and Sister Brockwell for their hospitality. May the Lord bless all, is my prayer.

J. W. BEER.

Somerset Church, Nebraska.

BEAVER CITY, NEB.—Items from the frontier may be of some interest to the readers of the EVANGELIST. We had a soul reviving series of meetings which lasted two weeks. On the seventh evening of our meeting we had a lovefeast which indeed was a feast of love. During the meeting five precious souls were added to the church and others were almost persuaded. We now number thirteen. The meeting closed Dec. 14th. Elder Christian Forney, of Burr Oak, Jewell county, Kans., and Elder Jacob Armsberger, of Norton county, Kans., did the preaching. The brethren truly did good service whilst with us.

ISRAEL BAER.

Buckeye City Dedication.

We desire to announce that the Brethren Church at Buckeye City will be dedicated on the 18th of January, 1885. The dedicatory sermon to be preached by R. F. Malott. We expect to continue the meetings ten days or two weeks. We extend a general invitation.

ISAAC ROSS.

Miami Valley Items.

The Farmersville Brethren will commence a protracted effort in the near future.

Our West Manchester, Lexington and Winchester appointments have not frozen up yet.

Brother Frank Baker, of the Lexington congregation has been quite sick for several weeks, but we are glad to report him better.

When we commenced our protracted meeting at West Manchester last fall, I handed the appointments at Miamisburg and New Lebanon, over to brother J. P. Martin, and although I have not heard from them, I hope they are alive and prospering.

The prospects at West Manchester are brightening. The Brethren church there has many staunch friends, and the best of it is they are on the increase.

At our last appointment at Lexington, brother G. C. Henkle preached for us. Although this was his first effort, he preached a good sermon which was appreciated by all. We hail brother Henkle among the active laborers in the Lord's vineyard with much satisfaction because I believe it will be a great help to the cause here.

On Christmas eve the Farmersville congregation gave the Sunday school an old-fashioned Christmas treat. The presents were appropriate, and the services interesting and profitable. Although the night was cold, stormy and slippery, we had a fair attendance, and all enjoyed themselves. EDWARD MASON.

Another Church Organized.

MARTINSBURG, PA., Jan. 9th.—During November last I made a brief visit to Maitland, Mifflin Co., Pa., about five miles north of Lewistown, in what is known in German Baptist statistics as the "Dry Valley" church, presided over by Elder William Howe, the home church of the Evangelist. J. M. Mohler, upon that occasion, preached a few sermons, promising, if spared, to return again soon. On the 3rd of January, in company with brother Hildebrand, I again visited them. And on the sixth at 2 o'clock, p. m., met at the home of brother and Sister Carstetter, and then and there completed an organization of the church of the Brethren, to be known as the Church at Maitland. Brother Josiah Brindle was ordained to the Pastorate; brother James Fry as Deacon. Brethren Carstetter, Coleman and Fisher were elected Trustees. John B. Hunt, Treasurer, with brother Fry as Secretary. Thus, another organization is added to the compact, and we hope to see good results from this little church. May Heaven's choicest blessings rest upon you brethren and sisters; and may the prayers of the church ascend as one man in your behalf. Ministering brethren going East will please make a note of this and stop off and see them, and preach for them: they ask it. Brother Brindle's address is Paintersville, Mifflin Co., Pa. Lo, the Cause moves slowly but surely.

WILL L. SPANOGLE.